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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 28, 1875.

Senator Spencer, of Alabama, to be Investigated.

The Democratic Representatives from Alabama declare their intention to make an attack on Senator Spencer through an investigation of Hines and the postoffice contracts. The Legislature of Alabama will meet in about a month, when the committee appointed to investigate the election of Senator Spencer will report. The Democratic Senators will co-operate.

Removals in Interior Department.

Nine important dismissals were made in the Interior Department yesterday, all in the Indian Bureau. It is officially stated that these removals are made for complicity with the Indian ring, and that in the case of several of the dismissed officials the evidence is of such a decisive character that it will be laid before the Grand Jury, among those removed, are H. R. Clum, for many years Chief Clerk of the Indian Bureau; A. S. H. White, who has been connected with the Department ever since its organization; Walter P. Irving, and Enos Eraugh Jachnich, Chief of the Finance Division. The dismissals were made by the direct order of Secretary Chandler.

It is understood that in a day or two the Commissioner of Indian Affairs will be removed and E. S. Tobey, of Boston, a personal friend of the President, appointed to the position.

Postal Changes in Pennsylvania.

The following postal changes and appointments of postmasters have been made in the State of Pennsylvania for the week ending November 27, 1875:

Discontinued — Roscommon, Monroe county; papers to Saylorsburg.

Postmasters Appointed — Thomas B. Monks, Tidioute; Joseph N. Smith, Bouncanville, Adams county, *vice* A. Hartsaub, Jr., resigned; R. G. Pitts, Ellensburg, Lawrence county, *vice* G. McWilliams, resigned; James A. Eakin, Big Bend, Venango county, *vice* S. L. Lockard resigned; George F. Allen, Lowville, Erie county, *vice* J. F. Sunley, declined; Ira J. Parker, Wolf Run, Lycoming county, *vice* Joseph Masters, removed.

Establishments—West Manchester, York county, route 2,433, George Eysier postmaster.

First Census of the United States.

Among the numerous interesting contributions of the Department of the Interior to the Centennial Exposition will be the complete returns of the first census of the United States taken in 1790. These are now being put in order for that purpose. They will be neatly bound. The returns for the State of Pennsylvania, for instance, are unique specimens of paper and penmanship. The books are of all sizes, from that of a pass book up to the ordinary long cash book. One had a pasteboard back ornamented with a wood engraving. The old style wall paper. Each book embraced a county. The subjects of enumeration were "Free white males, sixteen years and upward, including heads of families;" "Free white males, under sixteen years, free white females, including heads of families" and "Slaves."

Col. Edward McPherson.

the retiring Clerk of the House of Representatives, has held that office in continuous succession twelve years, a longer term than it has ever been held by his predecessors. The nearest to him was Matthew St. Clair Clark, who held the office in unbroken succession for eight years. After an intermission of a few years, Mr. Clark again held the office for two years and a half. Colonel McPherson says that as soon as his successor is elected he will return to his home at Gettysburg and there enjoy a winter with his family and friends, a pleasure he has not experienced for twelve winters. He says that he has no considerable amount of literary work on hand and he wishes to dispose of this.

Michael C. Kerr.

one of the prominent candidates for the Speakership of the Democratic House of Representatives, was born on a farm near Titusville, Pennsylvania. Mr. Kerr says that it was on his father's place that the first oil was struck. He says that his father sold out in 1852, for $3,000. Subsequently the discovery of oil was made and, in 1856, the same place was sold for upward of a quarter of a million dollars. Mr. Kerr says that he early took Greeley's advice and went West.

Offices in the Gift of the House.

The following are the offices controlled by the House of Representatives: Speaker of the House, salary $8,000; Speaker's Clerk, $5,000; Sergeant-at-Arms, $4,320; Doorkeeper, $2,500; two Journal Clerks, each $3,000; two Reading Clerks, each $8,000; one Tally Clerk, $3,000; five Assistant Clerks, $2,600 each; six Assistant Clerks, $2,160; Doorkeeper, $2,592; Chief Messenger, $2,100; three Assistant Messengers, $1,440; Messenger to the Sergeant-at-Arms, $1,440; twelve Messengers to the Doorkeeper, $1,200 each; Janitor during session; five Official Reporters, at $5,000 each; two stenographers for the use of committees, $4 28; Postmaster of the House, $2,592; First Assistant, $2,420; Second Assistant, $1,500 each; seven Messengers, $1,200 each; Superintendent of House Document Room, $2,160; Assistant, $2,100; Assistant for the use of the Speaker, $1,800; Clerk of the House, $2,160, and his Assistant $2,160; Superintendent of the Folding Room $2,160; Private Secretary to the Speaker, $2,500; Clerk to the Committee of Ways and Means, $2,100; Clerk to the Sergeant-at-Arms, $2,500; Paying Teller, $1,800; File Clerk in the Document Room, $1,800; Telegraph Operator, $1,200; Chief Messenger of Executive Examining Department, $1,800; three assistants, $1,440; six firemen, $1,100; twenty-four laborers, at $60 a month, seven required throughout the year and the rest during the session; Chaplain of House, $900; Matron in charge of ladies' retiring room in the gallery.

Of the other allowed to standing committees, five are employed through the entire year, as follows: Ways and Means, $2,592; Appropriations, $2,592; Claims, $2,160; Military Affairs, $2,160; Public Lands, $2,160. The Ways and Means and Appropriations each have a messenger, at $1,320. The following committees are also allowed clerks, at $5 to $6 per day: Accounts, Agriculture, Banking and Currency, Commerce, District of Columbia, Education, Election, Foreign Affairs, Indian Affairs, Invalid Pensions, Judiciary, Military Affairs, Mines, Naval Affairs, Pacific Railroads, Patents, Postoffices and Post Roads, Printing, Private Land Claims, Public Buildings and Grounds, Railways and Canals, Revision of the Laws, and Territories. The aggregate expenditures per annum average about $250,000.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 27, 1875.

SECRETARY CHANDLER CLEANS OUT THE INDIAN BUREAU—ELEVEN OLD CLERKS DISCHARGED.

Just before the close of business in the Interior Department this afternoon Secretary Chandler signed formal notifications addressed to the Chief Clerk, three heads of divisions, and seven other principal clerks of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, informing them individually that their services will be from this date dispensed with. The removals are in each case based upon the recommendation of Commissioner Smith, and made "for reasons stated" in the old clerks associated for any considerable length of time with the past history of the Bureau. The decision is (as the paragraph of Commissioner express it) to "begin anew." Commissioner Smith, however, signifies his confidence in the personal integrity of Chief Clerk Clum by recommending him for transfer to some other position in the Department. The notices of removal reached most of the officers after the clerks dismissed had left the city, and in these instances were forwarded after them to their homes. Their successors have not yet been appointed.

TROUBLE AT RED CLOUD AGENCY—WHITE MAN SHOT AT BY AN INDIAN—DEMAND FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE GUILTY PARTY.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs this morning received the following telegram:

RED CLOUD AGENCY, VIA FORT LARAMIE, November 22.—Without provocation, a young Indian to-day shot at George W. Bosler, while bringing in a herd of cattle. To-morrow I shall demand the surrender of the man for punishment, which will undoubtedly be refused. I respectfully request full and definite instructions as to what course to pursue in case of such refusal. Shall I send a thousand Indians and place the agency under guard until he is given up?

[Signed] J. J. SAVILLE.
United States Indian Agent.

To this Commissioner Smith has telegraphed a reply as follows:

The Indians must be compelled to surrender the guilty party. The military will stand by you, stop rations until the surrender is made.

[Signed] E. P. SMITH, Commissioner.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS—ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION—THE BLACK HILLS—GOVERNMENT FOR THE RED MEN.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Smith, in his annual report, says the reports of Indian superintendents and agents convey unmistakable evidence of a year of advance in the civilization of the Indians. Their testimony is almost uniform to the fact that the civilization of the Indians is not only entirely practicable, but fairly under way. 12,028 Indians are self-supporting. The corn crop last year was 2,461,000 bushels; potatoes and other vegetables, 421,645 bushels; fields under cultivation, 325,514 acres, a larger area by 7,000 acres than ever before reported, and nearly 200,000 acres more than in 1871. Seventy ten thousand more Indian families are now living in houses than five years ago. The Commissioner expresses the opinion that a general Indian war will never occur in the United States.

In reference to the Black Hills country, the Commissioner recommends that legislation be now sought from Congress offering a fair and full equivalent for the country lying between the North and South forks of the Cheyenne river, in Dakota. The tract equivalent to be offered the Sioux, as helpless ward of the Government, for the Black Hills will be found by estimating that eight hundred square miles of gold fields are worth to us and what three thousand square miles of timber, agricultural and grazing lands are worth to them.

The Commissioner says the need of the Indian Territory is a government of the simplest form possible, and suggests a government similar to that provided for the territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio, preliminary to the organization of a general assembly, would be best adapted for the Territory at present. He recommends that the matter be again brought before Congress.

The Commissioner opposes the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, but recommends that the purchasing, inspecting and transporting of goods and supplies required to subsist the Indians be done by that department.

The Commissioner speaks in the highest terms of the aid afforded by the different religious bodies of the country, and earnestly hopes that Congress will remove the difficulties which have heretofore been experienced in procuring the enactment of the annual necessary appropriations for the training and education of the Indians. None but the very best men, he says, should be appointed as agents, and he expresses the hope that the Government will still be inclined to call upon the religious bodies of the country to name the men.

It is not expected that a deficiency for this year will arise exceeding $200,000. The cost of maintaining all the Indians, except the wilder tribes, will steadily decrease from this time until they cease to be a burden to the Government. It is not impossible, however, that such an additional expenditure will be required in bringing the wilder tribes into the beginnings of civilization as will make the total of appropriations for three or four years to come equal to three of the last three years, and perhaps greater.

THE WHISKY FRAUDS.

Continuation of Avery's Trial—Bristow Charged With Being Interested in a Crooked Whisky Firm—A Man Who Returned a Bribe.

ST. LOUIS, November 26.—The Avery trial was continued to-day in the United States District Court. S. D. Thorp, United States Storekeeper, repeated his testimony given in the McDonald case with the addition that Joyce frequently showed him letters purporting to be form Avery or Babcock, relative to "crooked" whisky. The witness did not know Avery's handwriting, therefore could not tell whether they were really written by him, but Avery's signature, but did not tell him what it contained, other than that it said everything was all right.

Alfred Bevis, of Bevis & Fraser, testified to about the same thing as Thorp, also that Joyce, on several occasions, showed him letters purporting to come from Avery and Babcock, notifying the ring of the coming of agents. He could not, however, identify Avery's handwriting. These letters and also telegrams were shown to five distillers confidential clerks, who identified them as being distilling. The famous dispatch received here four days before the seizures were made, last May, from Mr. Bristow, was also shown to each of Newcomb, Buchanan & Co., Louisville, who seemed to know it by heart.

On cross-examination he said he had been informed that Secretary Bristow was interested in the firm of Newcomb, Buchanan & Co. He created a sensation in court, and Gen. Henderson said if the defense would show that Bristow was a member of the firm the prosecution would have him indicted at once.

A. L. Dingley, chief of the auditing division of accounts in the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, testified that he sent Avery on St. Louis on the confidential business of the Revenue Agent Gunther. Avery made a verbal report on his return that Gunther's accounts were probably correct. Later on in the street in December, 1872, remarked to witness that Joyce was going to send us a Christmas present. In February following Avery handed me a package containing $400. I told Avery to return it to Joyce, and assuming that it came from him, to which Avery replied that Joyce would not like it sent in such a manner that no trouble could come of it. I immediately bought a draft for $400, inclosed it to Joyce, and Avery reported the matter to Deputy Commissioner Bowen. Witness knew Joyce in his successor, and Avery told him he intended to return his money also, which I understood he did. The draft was returned to me by Joyce with the indorsement erased, and without a word of explanation.

A number of telegrams were then introduced, of which the following were the most important: one dated Washington, to Joyce, dated St. Louis, dated January 21st, 1874: "Everything looks well. Send on report. Feel hunky." [Signed] John. Another, dated Washington to Joyce, St. Louis, dated March 9th, 1874: "If sickness in your family prevents you going West, R. G. Hogue will pay you going West. [Signed] Mac." Another from Avery to Joyce, dated March 13th, 1874, saying: "Do not receive Mac's telegram." You friends will substitute another." Another telegram from Joyce to Avery, dated March 11th, 1874, saying: "Telegram received; start from San Francisco Monday night. All right." Another telegram from Joyce to McDonald, dated Washington, July 1, 1874, saying: "Things all right here; let us understand each other." Another, dated Washington, July 3, 1874, to McDonald, St. Louis: "Matters are lively and I am on the watch sharply." Another, dated St. Louis, August 3, 1874, to Avery, Washington: "Have friends started for Rome? Will be there and let the know." [Signed] A. Another, bearing the same signatures to Avery, dated St. Louis, August 26, 1874: "Are friends coming West? See it, and give me soundings." Another, dated Washington, October 15, 1874, to Joyce, St. Louis: "Your friend is in New York, and may come on these you." [Signed] Avery. Another, dated St. Louis, October 18, 1874: "Give something positive on movement of friends. Act with promptness." [Signed] A. Another, dated Washington, October 19, 1874, to Joyce, St. Louis: "Expect a telegram in order. Your friends will visit you." [Signed] Mac. Another, dated Washington, December 7, 1874, to Joyce, St. Louis: "Hold a long sight till the President this afternoon. B. and H. here. Will hear from you to-morrow." [Signed] John. Another, dated Washington, December 8, 1874, to Joyce, St. Louis: "Dead day; the dose has a long sight to follow." [Signed] John. Another, dated Washington, December 9, 1874, to Avery, St. Louis: "Dead day; the dose has a long sight to follow." [Signed] John; and another dated Washington, January 6, 1875, to McDonald, St. Louis: "Order burned forever. Avery & Co. mad. Hold things level." [Signed] Karney.

ST. LOUIS, November 27.—The following telegram, which speaks for itself, was received here this afternoon:

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 27, 1875.

To S. P. Dyer, United States District Attorney, St. Louis:

I learn from the evening papers that in course of the trial of William O. Avery, charged with conspiracy, statements are current that I was interested in a distillery or liquor house at Louisville, Ky. Substantially the same rumor was circulated in the Senate last winter. I officially and guilty distillers, their confederates and friends, last spring, obviously for the purpose of breaking the force of proceedings against them. So long as the matter rested in mere secret whispering in the columns of newspapers friendly to the ring, I could not properly take notice of it; but now that it has been dragged into court as appears in the telegraphic dispatches of to-day, I deem it proper to request that every person whose name has been, or can be given you as having knowledge of such alleged facts, shall be brought before the Grand Jury and subjected to the most rigid examination. The statement is absolutely and unqualifiedly false, so far as it affects me, but I do not desire to have the matter to rest upon my denial. I beg to repeat the request heretofore communicated to you, that these frauds on the Government shall be probed to the very bottom; that every ramification of the ring shall be followed in every part from beginning to end, and that no one having connection with or guilty knowledge of its operations shall be permitted to escape.

So far as this Department is concerned, I ask that every allegation against any officer of it, from its head to the humblest employee, be thoroughly investigated and vigorously prosecuted if any grounds exists therefor.

I have read this to the President, who repeats his injunction, "Let no guilty man escape."

[Signed] B. H. BRISTOW,
Secretary of the Treasury.

LOUISVILLE, KY., November 27.—The *Evening Ledger* says: "Having seen in the *Courier Journal* the statement of Bevis in the trial of Avery, now in progress at St. Louis, that he was a partner of Secretary Bristow was interested in the house of Newcomb, Buchanan & Co., a *Ledger* reporter visited Mr. George C. Buchanan, President of the Newcomb Buchanan Company, and called his attention to the statement made by Bevis. Mr. Buchanan said he considered the statement scarcely worthy of notice, it being utterly false and unfounded in fact, and that Secretary Bristow has not now, and never had, any interest whatever, directly or indirectly, in the house of Newcomb, Buchanan & Co., or in its successor, the Newcomb Buchanan Company."

ST. LOUIS, November 27.—The trial of W. O. Avery progressed to-day in presence of the usual large crowd. Considerable public interest in the revelations of the whisky ring still being fully sustained. Fitzroy, Engelke and Tuesaber testified at considerable length, but very little new information was elicited. There was really no direct evidence against Mr. Avery today. All the witnesses stated in a general way, however, that Mr. Avery received part of the money raised here for the ring, a package being set aside for him and given to Joyce, but whether Joyce ever sent it to Avery, or whether that gentleman ever received it from any other person they could not say. They did not know of Avery ever receiving a dollar. Avery ever got a dollar. James J. Brooks, for seven years in the revenue service, and since October, 1874, connected with the secret service, gave a long account of his raid on the distilleries in New Orleans and Algiers in the spring of 1874, and of his investigation subsequently of Bevis & Fraser's affair here, but he said little or nothing of Avery.

WHEELING.

Impeachment of State Treasurer Burdett —Case of State Auditor to be Voted on To-day.

WHEELING, November 28.—Articles of impeachment against John S. Burdett, Treasurer of this State, were adopted last night by the House of Delegates. His case will now go to the Senate for trial. Articles of impeachment against E. A. Bennett, State Auditor, will be voted on to-day. The charges against the gentlemen consist in abusing the powers of their offices and perverting the influence of their official position to their private interests.

In the United States Court at Chicago yesterday, William Foster filed a bill to foreclose a mortgage for $1,000,000 against the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw Railroad Company, for default of interest on its bonds.

THE LATE VICE PRESIDENT.

The Remains Taken from Boston to Natick.

VIEWING THE REMAINS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 25.—From ten o'clock this forenoon until sunset, an almost unbroken throng of people passed through the rotunda of the Capitol to view the remains of the Vice President. The body, enclosed in a glass-covered casket, lay in state on a low catafalque directly under the center of the dome, watched over by a guard of honor detailed from the Marine Corps. The catafalque is the same which was used at the obsequies of President Lincoln, Chief Justice Chase and Senator Sumner. The rotunda is profusely draped with the national colors entwined with mourning. The Senate Chamber has been prepared by the Sergeant-at-Arms for to-morrow's funeral ceremonies, and presents an extremely impressive appearance. The entire base of the gallery and all the pilasters are covered with crape in broad bands and festoons, the woodwork over the Vice President's chair and the chair itself being draped with especial richness of effect. The approaches to the Senate Chamber and the Hall below columns of the portico have also been tastefully draped with mourning. The casket is rich and massive. The usual floral decorations rest on it, and it bears a plate inscribed simply "Henry Wilson. Born February 16, 1812; died November 22, 1875."

THE SERVICES AT THE CAPITOL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 26.—The funeral of Vice President Wilson took place in the Senate Chamber at half-past ten o'clock this morning. Although the weather was very unfavorable, the crowd was great. Many were unable to gain admission to the building after ten o'clock. The Senate Chamber was heavily draped in mourning, and immediately in front of the Vice President's table the catafalque was placed, the desks having all been removed from the chamber. Seats were arranged on the floor for the President and Cabinet, Supreme Court Judges, members of the Senate and House of Representatives and other prominent persons. At 10:35 the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, headed by Mr. Middleton, their clerk, entered, and were assigned to the front row of seats on the right of the Vice President's desk. At 10:22 the body was taken from the rotunda to the Senate Chamber, preceded by Rev. Dr. Sunderland, Chaplain of the Senate, Sergeant-at-Arms French, the Committee of Arrangements and pall bearers, and followed by the relatives of the deceased, among them his brother, Mr. Colbath, and family. The casket was carried by twelve soldiers, and as soon as it was placed on the catafalque prepared for its reception, two pall bearers, a Marine Corps, in full uniform, took position at the head of the casket, and stood motionless throughout the entire services. Numerous crosses and crowns of white flowers, sent to the Capitol during the night, were tastefully arranged and placed on the coffin. As the body was brought into the Chamber, all persons upon the floor arose, and the Rev. Dr. Sunderland read the passage: "Lord, make me to know Thy ways," &c., and other selections from the Scriptures. Soon after the casket was placed on the catafalque, the President, accompanied by Secretary Fish, Secretary Belknap, Secretary and Chandler, entered and were assigned to the front row of the seats opposite those occupied by the Supreme Court. All of the ladies were clad in their robes of office. The Committee of Arrangements and the reception committee occupied seats immediately in front of the Supreme Court, and behind them were nearly all the members of the diplomatic corps, headed by Sir Edward Thornton, who is the dean, or oldest continuous member of the corps, and behind them were the citizens of Massachusetts temporarily residing in Washington. Upon the right of the Vice President the relatives of the deceased were seated in rear of the President, and next to them members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Among others on the floor were Governor Talbot, of Massachusetts; Governor-elect General Ingalls and Judge Advocate General Holt and Assistant Judge Advocate General Dunn, General Sherman, Vice President Barnes, Humphrey and other army officers, ex-Attorney General Williams, Mrs. Hemmings, Pratt, Frederick Douglass and others of prominence. The chair of the Vice President was occupied by Senator Hamlin, the deceased's colleague. Senator Ferry, of Michigan, President *pro tem.* of the Senate, occupied a seat at the clerk's desk. The officers of the Senate and the Committee of Arrangements wore white silk sashes gathered in bows on the left shoulder, with rosettes. In spite of the very inclement weather, the larger part of those present were ladies. Among those in the diplomatic gallery were Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Belknap and Mrs. Bristow. At 10:45 Senator Hamlin and Ferry announced that the services would now begin. Rev. Dr. Sunderland, standing at the clerk's desk, delivered a brief prayer, and a Scripture, after which Rev. Dr. J. E. Rankin delivered an eloquent address.

When the address was finished, Rev. Dr. Sunderland offered a prayer and pronounced the benediction. The casket was then closed, and the funeral cortege, formed in the order prescribed, proceeded to the depot of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company. The streets along the route were thronged with spectators, despite the heavy rain. Guns were fired and the bells of the churches throughout the city were tolled. At the depot the remains were consigned to Senator Thurman, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, and to Governor Talbot and the Massachusetts committee, and placed on the special train which started for Baltimore at 1:37 P. M.

The escort, which was commanded by Brevet Major General W. H. Emory, consisted of a full battalion of United States marines stationed in this city, headed by the marine band; the first regiment of District militia, under command of Colonel Robert T. Fleming, and the first battalion of colored troops, under command of Major Charles B. Fisher. The staff officers of the District militia, under command of Colonel, and three other officers of the Fifth Maryland Regiment, also formed part of the military escort. The funeral car was draped in white and black cloth, and surmounted by five heavy plumes. It was drawn by six white plates, caparisoned in black, each one led by a groom in mourning. Surrounding this car were the pall bearers, also consisting of three non-commissioned officers and ten privates, under command of Sergt. G. C. Haycock. Twelve soldiers, from the National service corps, detailed as body bearers, followed. After the carriages containing the Governors of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Massachusetts State Republican Association and Maryland Republican Association of this city, and a considerable number of white and colored citizens. The procession moved down the station, the President and Cabinet, the pall bearers, Committee of Arrangements, Supreme Court, and Massachusetts delegation following after the car, the guard of honor preceding it. The remains were received by the President and Cabinet passed. The casket having been placed on the platform, Senator Thurman, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, addressing the Massachusetts committee, said:

REMARKS OF SENATOR THURMAN.

"GENTLEMEN OF MASSACHUSETTS! The funeral ceremonies at the National Capitol over the remains of your illustrious fellow citizen are concluded, and we now deliver them to you to convey them to the State of which he was a citizen, and by which he has been honored, and which he so well deserved. In the performance of your mournful duties, you will carry with you the sympathies of the nation, and everywhere meet with sincere marks of respect for the illustrious dead."

Colonel Wyman, in reply, said they accepted the precious trust confided to them, and would convey the remains to Massachusetts, where they would receive all the honor that love and affection could bestow.

The body was then placed in the car, and the following gentlemen, who will accompany it to Massachusetts, took places in the train: Colonel Edward Wyman, Chairman of Reception: Colonel George H. Campbell, Private Secretary of the Governor; Hon. Seth Turner, Hon. E. H. Bunn, members of the Executive Council; Senator Boutwell, of the Council of Massachusetts; Captain Haycock, and the Guard of Honor from the Marine Corps; Deputy Sergt-at-Arms, James D. Christie; the dedegation of Fifty Citizens from Boston, headed by A. G. Hills, of the Boston *Journal*, and Messrs. Dodge, Jones, Hyatt, Bowditch and Robert Parvis, who as personal friends of Mr. Wilson were especially invited by the Massachusetts committee to accompany the remains to Boston. Among the floral offerings on the casket in the Senate Chamber was a large monument bearing the following inscription: "Floral offering from the Senate of the United States to the memory of the lamented Vice President, the student, statesman, philanthropist and Christian, whose name will ever be identified with the political movement for human freedom. He was President of the Senate of this Commonwealth. He was its Senator in the National Congress. He was Vice President of the United States. In every station he was equal to his duties. He was true to the fundamental principles of his faith, the equal rights of humanity. He progress the long line of infantry presented arms and recovered them with all the honor customary on such occasions. After the casket had been transported to the special train which was to take the remains to Washington Committee of Arrangements were

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1875.

THE export movement in breadstuffs from Philadelphia last week amounted to 147,864 bushels. The total breadstuffs exportation from that port during the year aggregates 6,882,676 bushels.

THE foreign export trade of Boston, last week, amounted to $960,643, against $769,954 for the corresponding week last year. The total exports during the year aggregate $30,629,805, against $36,234,007 for the relating period of 1874, a gain of $4,395,244.

ACCORDING to the British Board of Trade returns for October, and for the ten months ending the same, while in the ten months of last year we imported 91,626 tons of railroad iron from Great Britain, we have imported in the corresponding period of this year only 17,711 tons. This is getting down to the bottom.

THE Supreme Court of Iowa has just rendered a decision to the effect that a recorded mortgage to secure subsequently acquired property is a superior lien to a mechanics lien for labor and material furnished after the recording of the mortgage and before the property to be secured by the mortgage is acquired. A similar decision of the court below cost the judge his seat on the bench, he being defeated for re-election.

THE Rochester *Democrat* makes a ringing argument for the adoption of a Constitutional amendment which shall put it out of the power of local school boards to divert the school funds to the uses of any religious denomination, and says: "Until this is done, our common school system is not safe." Correct. But would not such amendment to the National Constitution, making common school education wholly secular in its scope, be productive of still more desirable results?

THE people of West Virginia, a few years ago, in their intense eagerness for a "change," put the Democrats in power and the State has since been in their hands. Two of the State officers chosen when this "change" was made, the State Treasurer and State Auditor, have just been impeached by the House of Delegates for embezzlement and corruption in office, and they are to be tried by the Senate on the charges thus preferred. Our guess is that the people of that State have not made much by the "change."

THE statistics of the distribution of the Ohio school fund reflect curiously upon the intelligence of the Democratic party in that State. Thirty-eight counties pay more for the school fund into the State Treasury than they draw out again, while fifty draw out more than they pay in. Of the latter, thirty-two voted Democratic at the last election, and only eighteen Republican. In other words, there are thirty-two Democratic counties which are not doing much in the work of educating their children, and but eighteen Republican counties that require similar aid; while of the thirty-eight counties which afford this aid and fully support their own schools besides, twenty-five are Republican, and only thirteen Democratic.

EX-SPEAKER BLAINE is said to be in favor of settling the school question forever by an amendment to the Federal Constitution in the following words:

"No money raised by taxation in any State for the support of the public schools, or derived from any public fund therefor, shall ever be under the control of any religious sect; nor any money so raised ever be divided between religious sects or denominations."

This is very good, as a mere suggestion; but such an amendment to the Constitution, whenever it is adopted, should be thorough and complete, and cover the ground so clearly as to leave no room for adverse constructions and interpretations. The language of the amendment as given above could be, we think, improved greatly; but as a theme for present discussion it will serve admirably.

HERE is a little incident in the life of Vice President WILSON, which is not generally known. When JOHN BROWN made his reckless raid upon Virginia soil, Mr. WILSON was very despondent for the success of the anti-slavery cause. Entering a certain Boston newspaper office he asked for the latest news from Virginia. He was shown the dispatches detailing the particulars of the raid. "It will irredeemably hurt the abolition cause," he said, "people will not understand it. We shall never recover from the blow." They did, however. There are some men who, the more they mow hang them, the more they won't die. JOHN BROWN was one of these. No sooner had the war begun than he got right up out of his coffin as full of life and vigor as any of them, took his place at the head of the Union troops, and performed the part of drum major of Liberty to the end of the war.

BUSINESS IN OUR CRIMINAL COURTS.

We ask the special and close attention of the reader to the facts presented, to-day, in the communication of Judge WHITE. It refers to a subject which cannot longer be ignored, and it puts forth an array of facts that may, without exaggeration, be considered as appalling. Certainly no thoughtful man can read them without feeling shamed by the exhibit and terrified by the prospect which they hold out for the future.

There can be no question that the Grand Jury in this county (and presumably in the other large counties also) is overloaded with work, and that it cannot, with such a mass of complaints before it, become a Grand Inquest as to all of them. It must of necessity slight many of them, and it cannot give proper attention to any. The remedy for this is to be found in limiting its inquiries to crimes above the grade of larceny, leaving the rest to be heard and tried by petit juries exclusively. This, we are sure, will be found to work well in practice, and will certainly do away with the iniquity of multiplying indictments before the Grand Jury and putting the innocent prosecutors thereof into the costs.

A second, and we think the chief, remedy for most of the evils complained of by Judge WHITE is in *the complete abolition of costs in criminal cases before magistrates.* This is a radical remedy we admit; but none other is adequate. The great temptation to the *manufacture* of criminal cases (and we feel sure that "manufacture" is the right word in this instance) is the costs. Magistrates and constables encourage and stimulate complaints for the sake of the harvest of costs they will reap from them, and one complaint often serves to make several cases for court out of the same offense. The costs, in all these cases, are the incentives to action of those who carry on a sort of legal barratry in promoting vexatious litigation. Abolish the costs and you abolish the temptation to this practice. The courts, we venture to say, would not be pestered with the hundreds of petty suits which now annoy them if there were no legal reward for encouraging them.

How, then, we hear some one inquire, shall crime be repressed and criminals be brought to justice? By paying specific salaries to a limited number of magistrates and constables, whose time shall be specially devoted to the business of arresting and hearing those who are charged with offenses against the law. There need not be a great number of them; and they will have no interest in making or in multiplying cases.

The county, now, pays nearly all the costs that are paid in criminal cases, and she would be a gainer by the change in many ways. It would cost less, in compensation paid to magistrates and officers; jurors and witnesses would cost less; the jail and the Workhouse would cost less; and the courts would be pestered less with petty cases, thus giving them more time for more pressing business.

We have no faith, we may add, in police courts, as a remedy for existing evils. They might relieve the pressure upon the other courts, but they would not strike at the root of the wrongs complained of. We do not want more courts, but something that will effectually cut off the petty business with which they are now loaded down.

As any law sufficiently broad to cope with the evils mentioned by Judge WHITE must be a general one, there will probably be a difficulty in getting it enacted; but the justice of the remedies herein proposed is so plain that we cannot conceive a refusal of it possible. It is the boast of the law that every wrong has its remedy; and the Legislature cannot refuse a remedy so wise and so necessary as the one proposed. Of course, it will take time to mature the needed legislation; but in the meanwhile the subject, as Judge WHITE has presented it, is worthy of an extended and thorough discussion. "Men and brethren, think of these things;" and the more you think about them the more anxious you will be to see that the proper action follows your thoughts.

BOGUS CIRCULARS.

The Chamber of Commerce very properly warns country merchants, who deal with this city, against putting their confidence in bogus commission houses, who send out lying circulars which misquote the market and otherwise mislead the public.

This caution is very good, in itself; but how are country merchants to know whether the circulars they receive are from bogus houses or not? There is nothing in the circulars themselves to put the recipients of them on their guard, nor is there anything on the face of the quotations there given to indicate that they are deceptive. Unless country merchants have other knowledge to guide them, they cannot be expected to be able to distinguish, from the face of the circulars, the genuine from the false, or the bogus from the true.

The original error consists in going outside of well-conducted newspapers for commercial information. The state of the market is to be learned from the papers which make it their business to report commercial transactions. Circulars may in some cases give fuller details than the papers in special branches of trade; but, as a general rule, they set forth nothing, as to prices, that cannot be had as well in the columns of the daily press. We have not a word to say against the regularly issued circulars of well-established houses; but we are justified in claiming that a well-conducted daily newspaper, which gives proper attention to commercial matters, is as reliable as *any* other source of information, and much more so than any of those which challenge commercial confidence.

We employ four persons constantly in gathering up news and figures for our commercial and financial columns, and bestow special pains on the efforts to make our quotations correct. No country merchant need fear being misled by bogus circulars or otherwise, if he will take the COMMERCIAL, and keep himself posted as to commercial affairs. The bogus commission men do not impose easily upon men of that class. They are constantly on their guard against fraud, and the knowledge they acquire by their daily perusal of our commercial columns keeps them too well posted to be victimized by the PETER FUNKS of the commission trade.

We supplement the caution of the Chamber of Commerce, therefore, by saying to country merchants, "Take the DAILY COMMERCIAL." That will keep you well advised of what is going on, and the lying circulars will not long be sent to men who know too much to be imposed upon by them. The daily press is the legitimate medium for circulating the daily news, commercial and otherwise, and no country merchant can be safe who does not take a trustworthy daily paper.

THIRD TERM.

We regret to see so able and intelligent a journal as the Philadelphia *Inquirer* wasting space and time in long editorial articles advocating the nomination and election of President Grant for a third term. Surely the Republican and independent organs have given the country quite enough of this issue, and the tide of public sentiment on the subject was sufficiently indicated by the elections of 1874 and the Democratic majority in Congress. The loss of twenty-seven States in one campaign is rather a high price to pay for such a piece of amusement as the third term, and we should think much of the mischief it is a little provoking to have the thing come up again in this way. The *Gazette* of course has a right to its opinion, but the Philadelphia *Inquirer* has been pronounced so sweepingly in her State Conventions against a third term, that this sort of effort of distraction comes very untimely, and in a manner we need all our forces to prepare to fight the enemy in Congress and in the next ensuing elections. The discussion seems to us about as ill-timed as a year's preliminary drill for one attempting to carry Pennsylvania for it, we might about as well whistle jigs to a milestone and expect it to dance.—*Philadelphia North American.*

The *North American*, like the *Gazette*, of the postoffice advertisement to publish; but did not, as a consequence, feel itself bound to support the third term as an equivalent for the advertisement.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

A false-set-to voice. The Democratic cry of "reform."

Some valuable copper mines have lately been discovered in Oregon.

Two "Henry Wilson funeral marches" have already been published.

Do ewe know that yesterday was like a flock of sheep composed of all wethers?

Ex-Commissioner Smith, of the Indian Bureau, has been offered the Presidency of Howard University.

The castor bean crop of Kansas is very large this year. About a million dollars is the figure. That's oil.

A twelve-cent stamp will take half an ounce of letter to Japan after the first of January—if you prepay it.

The discovery of a process has been made by which ashes can be converted into a solid mass as hard as marble.

There are elks in Arizona which weigh two tons after dressing. Either so or else the Arizona papers exaggerate.

Heterophony. The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* headed its account of the Wilson obsequies, "Our Dead Senator."

A notable new departure. A professorship of music is to be founded in Cornell University, at the next commencement.

A petrified man, with gold ornaments, has been found in the vicinity of Indianola, Texas. He belonged to the golden age.

The new Fryer process of separating gold from quartz will add enormously to the production of gold, as it saves all there is in the rock.

In Boston women have so thoroughly proved their entire fitness as school officers that their re-election is almost unanimously called for.

"Lightning will strike" in New Orleans, soon. Thirty-one whisky establishments there have already been spotted as more or less crooked.

And now Greece has a scandal on hand. A couple of Cabinet ministers have been arrested for slippery practices, and their fat is in the fire.

The discovery has been made that gas distilled from pine is twice as dense as coal-gas and five times as luminous. Pittsburgh pines for it.

Slaughtering and rendering have been prohibited within the limits of Boston, which renders the city much more comfortable as a place of residence.

The crops in Nebraska this year have been enormous, and the State has been fully restored in the prosperity it enjoyed before the grasshopper scourge.

The country is not going to "get broke." The Secretary of the Treasury believes that he will have currency enough for the regular expenses of the Government.

The ceremonies attendant upon the consecration of the Rev. Dr. McLaren as Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Illinois will occur in Chicago on the 8th instant.

"Young America" stuffed the ballot box at a Sunday school election in Michigan, the other day. On counting the box it was found that some boy had cast about twenty ballots.

"Small Talk," the Louisville journalistic man-milliner, is engaged in the agreeable pastime of trying to crush out Robert Collyer, the great blacksmith preacher of Chicago.

A Good Story.

The following anecdote is related of Mr. Sheaf, a grocer, in Portsmouth, N. H.: It appears that a man had purchased some wool of him, which had been weighed and paid for, and Mr. Sheaf had gone to the desk to get change for a note. Happening to turn his head while there, he saw in a glass which hung so as to reflect the shop, a stout arm reach up and take from the scale a heavy white oak cheese. Instead of appearing suddenly and rebuking him for the theft, as another would, and thereby losing the customer forever, the crafty old gentleman gave the thief his change as if nothing had happened, and then, under pretence of lifting his bag to lay it on his horse for him, took hold of it, and exclaimed:

"Why, bless me, I must have reckoned the weight wrong."

"Oh, no," said the other, "you may be sure you have not, for I counted with you."

"Well, well, we won't dispute the matter, it is easily tried," said Mr. S., putting the bag into the scales again. "There," said he "I told you so—I knew I was right—I made a mistake of nearly twenty pounds; however, if you don't want the whole you needn't have it—I'll take part of it out."

"No, no," said the other, staying the hands of Mr. S. on their way to the strings of the bag, "I guess I'll take the whole;" and this he did, paying for his honesty by receiving the skim-milk cheese at the rate of forty-four cents a pound, the price of wool.

FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

Picturesque Styles at Vulgarly Low Prices. Women in Scarlet and Gold—Woman in Furs and Feathers—Shopping for the Holidays.

[From our Own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, November 30, 1875.

There is a great deal of pleasure in these bright days which come to us in the latter half of November, in shopping and seeing other people "shop" for the holidays.

Men make their purchases the night or day before Christmas or New Years; they know exactly what they want to get, for it is usually something about which they have received several unmistakable hints—a set of furs, a seal skin jacket, a pair of bracelets, a neck chain with pendent attached, an opera glass, a book, an engraving, or perhaps a basket of flowers or a box of bonbons. Whatever it is he knows just where he is going to get it, and is not troubled about what it will cost; he has not only presents to make and intends it shall be "handsome." So without troubling himself a moment beforehand he rests in conscious mastery of the situation until the time for decisive action arrives, then leisurely stops on his way up or down town, at the costliest shop he is acquainted with, makes his purchase, orders it home, and, the duty performed, dismisses it from his mind. What he does not like about the whole transaction is the hole it makes in his exchequer.

The ways of women are very different from this, partly from a difference in organization, partly from necessity. A woman never has money enough to buy all she wants at once, and could not if she had, because her purchases are so varied, adapted to so many family wants, and take in so great a diversity of individualities, big and little, young and old. It is the woman who looks out for the children, who remembers about the sled, and the skates, and the broken tea-set and the dilapidated doll, and the coveted writing desk, and other small articles, all of which must be reinforced at Christmas, or Christmas will not be any Christmas at all. It is she also who must hunt the repositories for the worsteds, or silks, in which to work miraculous slippers, which "papa" is to get in acknowledgment of his "solitaire," who knows just what the "grandma" will like, and who has to spread five dollars over a gaily figured dress, and numerous small articles of use and ornament for the critical approval of her parents, when it she begins shopping in November! The money, bless you, has been slowly accumulating through the year. It has been saved out of jelly and heads of celery, and stews upon the stray days when the husband dined at his club. It was helped considerably by making over a waterproof instead of buying a new one, by relining the children's furs at home and by—well, I am not going to tell any more of the shifts and sacrifices which succeed together that precious sum; but I will just remark that if it was happiness to save it, it is ten times greater happiness to spend it. It was saved to spend, and she only wants to spread her comfort and enjoyment in the uses to which she puts it over as much space as possible.

There have been quantities of virtuously indignant articles written about shopping, about women who occupied their time in looking at articles which they did not want and could not afford to buy, when how do we know they did not want them? Might it not have given them a poor sort of consolation to look at articles, simply because they could not afford to buy them? Women are so poor. There are some who live in very fine houses, who do not know what it is to have a dollar in their purse which they can spend all the year round.

It is this which very often makes women seem mean, and, like children, pleased with trifles. A very nice looking old lady was made completely happy in a horse-car by having two inches on a remnant of ribbon "thrown in." I thought then if one only could be a beneficent genius for a little time, how delightful it would be to touch with a wand the thin, scant looking pocketbooks of some women, and have them fill unexpected treasures in the form of bills and fresh new currency; stretch ribbons to unimaginable lengths; duplicate gloves; attach the wished for ornament to the waist, or bring it round the neck, and witness the joy of discovery.

REDUCTION IN PRICES.

An agency not altogether beneficent has very much reduced prices this season on all kinds of wearing apparel, but unfortunately at the same time has limited the means of purchase. Clothing, ornaments, objects of art and luxury, have not been obtainable at the present rates since long before the war. So many are trying to sell beautiful things, remnants of better day-; so few, comparatively, have the money to buy.

Diamonds, camel's hair shawls, rich laces are offered in quantities at private sale, at less than half their original value, and not a few "bargains" have been secured in this way, which have made a great and unexpected show on Christmas tables and in grown up Christmas stockings.

American manufacturing skill and enterprise are also offering great many formerly costly fabrics and articles employed for use and ornament. We are making our own camel's hair cloth at a cost which enables merchants to sell it at $1 50 instead of $3 50. We are making our own jewelry, real and imitation, that is, some of it, our own silks, our own Japanned paper ware, and some of our finest fans.

In the more delicate branches of industry we could do much more if workers were trained like the French in habits of industry and economy. We cannot make dine artificial flowers, not because the skill is lacking, but because the waste of infinitesimal particles of rich material is so great as to more than absorb the profit. In French artificial flower and other manufactures of the same sort, the utmost care and vigilance is exercised, the floors are waxed, the clothing of the workers is covered by great aprons, which are taken off and shaken before leaving the room, and then the floor itself is swept and every particle of silk, every grain of gold leaf, every thread of velvet or bit of silver wire collected and reserved for future use.

Here we lack this absolute system, and order, and cleanliness, and supervision necessary to success in fine branches of manufacture. We lack also the training labor and we have to pay much higher prices for such as we get. Many hard lessons have got to be learned before we arrive at a point where we faithfully put ourselves, and that which is committed to us, to fullest and best uses.

PICTURESQUE FASHIONS.

One has to go back twenty years and see the fashion plates of that date in order to realize the revolution which has taken place since skirts covered with three flounces were spread out over a hoop four yards and a half round and crowned by a scoop-shaped bonnet, pitched back from the face, and rendered still more hideous by a deep, ugly curtain.

Certainly the styles now are picturesque if nothing else; they are full of surprises; well carried out, they present a series of enchanting pictures and are gay, gracious, lively and full of the spirit of fashion-place.

They are adapted to beautiful and cared for women; the homely and uncared for can find refuge in homespun and alpaca. What can be more striking in the way of useful than a visiting dress of to-day? The plain demi-trained skirt of rich black velvet, coat sleeves of velvet also, with a princesse polonaise of soft white woolen matelasse or natte cloth, caught up on one side only, with a chatelaine bag of black velvet with silver mountings.

Add to this costume long ivory tinted kid gloves, and "Rubens" hat of unbleached felt turned up high and trimmed with black velvet and ivory tinted feathers, and you have a dress which is perfection, as far as its effect is concerned, particularly if the wearer be handsome, graceful and young.

There was a time when certain rigid observances were necessary to constitute correct visiting and church dress. An orthodox *bonnet* was the first essential, and a proper exhibition of handkerchief balanced upon the tips of the fingers, the second. More intimate acquaintance with the manners of our French cousins has banished the handkerchief to the regions where it belongs, and we are gradually learning that if the prettiest things are not put to the best uses, they will be put to the worst.

The soft grey felt hats with broad brims bordered with fur, the left side turned back boldly, and mounted with a daring contrast in feathers, or other ornaments, thrown sweptly on, the silver a la mode, was considered an innovation for city wear, even as late as the present autumn, yet it has won itself favor within a few months and is now to be seen at church, at the theater, at the opera and at receptions. It is rather curious that as yet we have had no "full dress opera" this season. The regular opera audiences have been conspicuous by their absence from the German and from the English opera. No evening toilettes have been seen, and the costumes as may be observed any time at church or in the street, with perhaps the addition of white or light hat and gloves.

The restoration of the white hat, however, and the more general use, both day and evening, of delicate tinted kid gloves, gives a generally more dressy appearance to any audience where they are visible, and this is heightened by the uses to which gold and silver braid, and the vivid "Cardinal" scarlet is put.

SCARLET AND GOLD.

We have not put on the livery of the famous "Jeames," nor become the complete representatives of the Babylonish woman. Scarlet and gold are both used sparingly, but they form such striking contrasts with black, navy blue, ivory and the cameo tints generally, that the result is very striking.

It is not uncommon to see complete costumes of navy blue, or invisible green, with hat to tip up by bows of scarlet ribbon and a scarlet rose, or scarlet feather. Creamy hats of rich velvet felt, have brims faced with scarlet and filled in with a scarlet bow, across which a dagger of gold and pearl gleams.

There are hats also bowed, and partly trimmed with gold or silver braid, and small pallots of black velvet, a cream colored cloth, or matelasse trimmed to match.

It is the fashion now instead of tying a ribbon round the throat to ornament the front of the paletot, or jacket, with loops and long ends. These are always scarlet unless the ribbon matches the suit or costume. The gold and scarlet mania is now in its best stage. The brilliant coloring is put in sparingly, and with artistic effect. The braids and finer galloons into which gold and silver thread are introduced are of the best quality, and do not tarnish or become defaced any quicker than the textile fabric which formes the foundation. The prices, at which alone this quality can be produced, restricts their use to the favored few, and it will take another season to fill the market with the trashy imitations, which destroy the best ideas, and furnish a motive for perpetual novelty.

FURS AND FEATHERS.

The question of furs has resolved itself very nearly into a question of trimmings. The introduction of fur trimmings actually threatens to kill the fur trade. The reason is this: Fashion insists upon harmony between the different parts of the costume. It is convenient to have a fur trimmed cloak or jacket, but it is not convenient to pay the price for mink or sable, or black martin trimming to match the "set" which we already own. What is to be done? Perhaps new furs are required as well as a new jacket, and immediately an idea strikes the thrifty mind of the ingenious modern woman. She will make jacket or winter suit and muff out of the same cloth, and trim them both with the same fur; this method will enable her to use a much cheaper fur as trimmings, and save the necessity for a new set, a most important item of expenditure. Moreover, when the fashion has gone, they can go with it, and nobody be the wiser.

The new silk paletots, which are almost invariably lined or trimmed with fur, have especially suggested this solution to many a difficulty. Nobody cares any more expensive than good cloth; a handsome lining edged with fur is cheap, better than fur for many accounts, and just as effective; make a muff to match with an edging of fur, and a band of it, the same in shade, but of better quality, round the cuffs and the outfit, with the exception of the boa, is complete. Black velvet is beautifully utilized in this way, in fact the cost of a really handsome set of furs goes a great way toward providing a complete velvet suit.

The fashions in furs, in color and kind, rather than in styles has changed so within the past few weeks as to prevent a feeling of uncertainty very unfavorable to a steady popular trade. There was a time when a set of furs was a *one* out now and the average women's existence. The business reputation of a husband who could not afford his wife a set of mink was compromised, while their possession was the undoubtable evidence of a certain standing and respectability. Since the decline of mink no other fur has reached or occupied the same position. The Russian sable is the finest, but it has become a mere matter of taste, and as few can tell the difference between the real and imitations, or know indeed the names of the almost infinite varieties of fur which they see about them, they shut their eyes, and buy that which suits the condition of their purse, since society no longer imposes any special obligation upon them in this direction.

Feather trimmings divide the honors with the fur, and this again impairs the prospects of the fur dealers.

Worse still, it is the more expensive and profitable class of trade that they cut into. Feather trimings cannot be imitated, they require hard work, bright, fresher, prettier and more fascinating than ever.

The last form which it has taken is that of an over-dress cut in the Gabrielle style, and sleeveless of course. It slopes off from the waist smoothly and is caught up on the left side, leaving the right side open and free for the chatelaine end of the Jeanne d'Arc belt, from which is suspended the fan.

This polonaise is very pretty in Surah silk, over plain faille; or in white silk matelasses over blue brocade, cut plain.

It is especially distinguished in white natte silk, over black velvet, and for visiting purposes may be made in brocaded cassimer or cloth of Spitzbergen, over heavy faille.

SILVER JEWELRY.

The silver chatelaines, which retain their vogue, are probably responsible for the introduction of silver ornaments, which appear in the form of "throatlets," or bands, chased, or formed of links, which are clasped close round the throat.

There are also bracelets and earrings to match these patterns, and silver belts composed of rings through which velvet or ribbon is run, and which is swung to the side and used as a chatelaine if desired. A very fashionable appendage to the dress is the black velvet chatelaine bag, also mounted in silver.

It is always suspended from the left side or the opposite one from that which holds the fan and some bottle, as it does not fix intingly well when the dress is black, or black and white in silk and velvet and the ornaments silver.

For evening dresses chatelaine bags are made of silk and trimmed with lace and fringe to match the dress, or are made of satin and covered as well as trimmed with lace.

The hair is worn higher, and beginning to be massed more toward the front of the head. Short, loose curls shade the forehead, instead of the disgusting "bang."

JENNIE JUNE.

Mrs. Andrew Johnson, the widow of ex-President Johnson, is reported as again very feeble.

THE COLD SNAP.

Opening of the Winter Season—Closing of Canals and Rivers—Disasters on the Lakes.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE LAKE HURON STORM—VESSELS WRECKED.

DETROIT, November 30.—The gale of Sunday and Monday proved even more destructive on the lakes than was at first supposed. Associated press dispatches today from Sheboygan report the total loss, a short distance south of Duncan, of the fine schooner Mary E. Perew, and narrow escape of the crew. The vessel was deck under, and the rigging a solid mass of ice. They were rescued by a boat's crew from Sheboygan. The schooners Granda, Sweetheart and Francis Palms were also ashore in the same vicinity; the former is probably a total loss. The propeller Bigelow-water, with a cargo of wheat, is ashore and full of water at Waugoshance, in a dangerous position. The brig Poseus is at Point Detour with her canvas in tatters. The schooner St. Lawrence, with a cargo of coal, became unmanageable on Sunday night on account of the rigging being covered with ice, and drifted on the reefs on the south point of Lake Huron, but with favorable weather will be released.

Lake Huron is covered with ice as far as can be seen. A dispatch from Sault Ste. Marie says that it is snowing there, with a light north wind; thermometer seventeen degrees below zero last night, with ice forming in the river in a solid mass, closing and it is impossible for boats to get through the canal. The steamers St. Paul, Missouri and boats and the Norman were reported fast in the mud flats yesterday.

CHICAGO, November 30.—About forty vessels are ashore on Lake Michigan in a more or less disabled condition. The recent storm will have proved disastrous to shipping, though few lives have been lost on the lakes.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Express Train Collides With a Freight near Buffalo—Two Persons Instantly Killed—Several Wounded.

BUFFALO, December 1.—The Atlantic express for the East, which left here at 1:50 P. M., and was detained thirty-two minutes at East Buffalo station, waiting for the Lake Shore train from the West, collided at the Batovia street crossing, about four miles from this city, with an eastern bound freight just drawn out from the side track, it having been signalled by flagman Brennan to come on. The smoking car and the first and second coaches, well filled with passengers, were upset from the track and captized. The passenger engine, tender and two baggage cars crushed through the fourth car of the freight train, lifting it from its trucks and precipitating it onto the flagman's shanty, crushing him under it. The scene at the wreck was indescribable.

H. C. Wood, jeweler, of Lima, N. Y., formerly of Canton, Ills., was crushed and almost instantly killed. J. Doty Collins, of Erie county, had his leg taken off near the thigh and was injured internally, while attempting to jump through the window of the first passenger coach; he cannot live. Mrs. Catharine Wilson, widow, was badly cut about the head and otherwise injured. She is considered dangerously hurt. Many were more or less cut and bruised, but none seriously. The number of the passenger train struck to his post. The fireman, jumping to the ground, received an ugly cut in the head.

The fast mail train, which was due at the time, was delayed two hours. The engineer only succeeded in stopping his train within fifteen feet of the wreck, which was piled upon his track. The dead and wounded were brought to this city and cared for.

Steamer Burned on Lake Erie.

DETROIT, December 1.—The steamer Phil Sheridan was burned on Lake Erie yesterday. She was insured for $80,000 against fire.

The Phil Sheridan took fire when a short distance from Buffalo, at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The efforts of the crew to suppress the fire being unvailing, they took to boats and were picked up and brought here by the steamer Craig. The Sheridan was valued at $30,000, and insured for $80,000 against fire.

The Phil Sheridan took fire when a short distance from Buffalo, at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The efforts of the crew to suppress the fire being unvailing, they took to boats and were picked up and brought here by the steamer Craig. The Sheridan was a freight boat, owned by Ward's Duluth Line.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 29, 1875.

The Democratic Scuffle for Office.

Fernando Wood to-day declared himself disgusted with the "scuffle," as he calls it, for the Speakership and announced his withdrawal. The spectacle has been presented within the past few days of a most indecent struggle for this high office. The prominent candidates may be seen buttonholing their Democratic fellow-members, and even frequent the public barrooms in company with bummers and lobbyists. The Democratic aspirants for the lower places are no less eager. Cards bearing the name and position aspired to are being distributed widely and promiscuously. The scenes already enacted here are but a foreshadow of what may be expected.

Mr. Wood to-night desired your correspondent to state that his action in withdrawing his name was solely on his own volition; that he had no connection with any one; that he had conversed with no one on the subject of the committees; that he had made no pledges and received none, and that so far as he was concerned his friends were at perfect liberty to vote as they pleased for Speaker.

To-day two new Democratic candidates for the Clerkship of the House appeared—Mr. Barksdale, a Democratic editor of Mississippi, and Mr. Humphreys, of the same State. This makes fifteen candidates for this place, all of whom are in the city and each of whom thinks he will be elected. There is a disposition on the part of ten or twelve Liberals in the House to withdraw in favor of Democratic caucus. The incentive to this is that they would thereby be entitled to equal consideration in the appointments on committees and one or two would be likely to obtain chairmanships.

Our Spanish Relations.

It is learned, semi-officially, that the tone of the correspondence within the past few days between this Government and Spain has been pervaded by a somewhat less pacific tone. Spain has not responded to our propositions in the manly and proper manner we had a right to expect, and our Government has found itself compelled to respond in very plain terms. In consequence, a rather uneasy feeling pervades official circles, but there are still strong hopes that all differences may be amicably settled.

In view of the not improbable disturbance of the *entente cordiale* between the Governments at Washington and Madrid, the forming by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs becomes a matter of great importance. It is known that Cox and Banks are both ardent sympathizers of the Liberal cause, and their selection would be likely to be favorable to any aggressive measures. Mr. Swann, who is also mentioned in the same connection, entertains more conservative views and is more in accord with Secretary Fish on this question. Therefore this chairmanship is naturally viewed with much interest at the President's house and the State Department.

Sales of Gold Discontinued.

It is understood that the reason influencing the Secretary of the Treasury in discontinuing the sale of gold, is that the abundance of currency in the Treasury, sufficient to meet all the demands of the Government. The internal revenue receipts have been so large that it is anticipated at the Treasury that there will for some time to come be a surplus of $500,000 per month, in accordance with the heretofore announced policy of the Secretary, it is understood that while this state of affairs continues the sales of gold will not be resumed.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1875.

The President's Message—Spanish Relations to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet session to-day lasted over three hours, almost the entire time being consumed in the reading of the President's message. It is understood that the portion touching our relations with Spain is left open, subject to certain contingencies which may grow out of the pending negotiations. The President has always favored a policy of firmness in dealing with foreign powers, and at the present time the present condition of things would have been averted. Mr. Fish, whose son-in-law was and probably still is the agent of the Spanish government, has always favored and put in practice a course of concession and forbearance till the conduct of Spain has become such that the national honor demands a different line of action. This is now being advanced. It is learned to-night from sources likely to be well informed that the difference of views has reached such a point that Secretary Fish threatens to resign if the present decided course be pressed. All officers on the active list of the navy have been ordered to their ships and prepared to duty. Accounts received at the Navy Department also report the monitor fleet and other vessels in satisfactory condition. The Secretary of the Navy says that he has no branch of the service on a footing equal to any emergency.

The Transportation of Petroleum.

The Secretary of the Treasury has now under consideration the subject of the transportation of petroleum. The present law is very defective, as it does not fix intingly well when the dress is black, or black and white in silk and velvet and the ornaments silver.

For evening dresses chatelaine bags are made of silk and trimmed with lace and fringe to match the dress, or are made of satin and covered as well as trimmed with lace.

The hair is worn higher, and beginning to be massed more toward the front of the head. Short, loose curls shade the forehead, instead of the disgusting "bang."

JENNIE JUNE.

Mrs. Andrew Johnson, the widow of ex-President Johnson, is reported as again very feeble.

THE COLD SNAP.

Opening of the Winter Season—Closing of Canals and Rivers—Disasters on the Lakes.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE LAKE HURON STORM—VESSELS WRECKED.

DETROIT, November 30.—The gale of Sunday and Monday proved even more destructive on the lakes than was at first supposed. Associated press dispatches today from Sheboygan report the total loss, a short distance south of Duncan, of the fine schooner Mary E. Perew, and narrow escape of the crew. The vessel was deck under, and the rigging a solid mass of ice. They were rescued by a boat's crew from Sheboygan. The schooners Granda, Sweetheart and Francis Palms were also ashore in the same vicinity; the former is probably a total loss. The propeller Bigelow-water, with a cargo of wheat, is ashore and full of water at Waugoshance, in a dangerous position. The brig Poseus is at Point Detour with her canvas in tatters. The schooner St. Lawrence, with a cargo of coal, became unmanageable on Sunday night on account of the rigging being covered with ice, and drifted on the reefs on the south point of Lake Huron, but with favorable weather will be released.

Lake Huron is covered with ice as far as can be seen. A dispatch from Sault Ste. Marie says that it is snowing there, with a light north wind; thermometer seventeen degrees below zero last night, with ice forming in the river in a solid mass, closing and it is impossible for boats to get through the canal. The steamers St. Paul, Missouri and boats and the Norman were reported fast in the mud flats yesterday.

CHICAGO, November 30.—About forty vessels are ashore on Lake Michigan in a more or less disabled condition. The recent storm will have proved disastrous to shipping, though few lives have been lost on the lakes.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Express Train Collides With a Freight near Buffalo—Two Persons Instantly Killed—Several Wounded.

BUFFALO, December 1.—The Atlantic express for the East, which left here at 1:50 P. M., and was detained thirty-two minutes at East Buffalo station, waiting for the Lake Shore train from the West, collided at the Batovia street crossing, about four miles from this city, with an eastern bound freight just drawn out from the side track, it having been signalled by flagman Brennan to come on. The smoking car and the first and second coaches, well filled with passengers, were upset from the track and captized. The passenger engine, tender and two baggage cars crushed through the fourth car of the freight train, lifting it from its trucks and precipitating it onto the flagman's shanty, crushing him under it. The scene at the wreck was indescribable.

H. C. Wood, jeweler, of Lima, N. Y., formerly of Canton, Ills., was crushed and almost instantly killed. J. Doty Collins, of Erie county, had his leg taken off near the thigh and was injured internally, while attempting to jump through the window of the first passenger coach; he cannot live. Mrs. Catharine Wilson, widow, was badly cut about the head and otherwise injured. She is considered dangerously hurt. Many were more or less cut and bruised, but none seriously. The number of the passenger train struck to his post. The fireman, jumping to the ground, received an ugly cut in the head.

The fast mail train, which was due at the time, was delayed two hours. The engineer only succeeded in stopping his train within fifteen feet of the wreck, which was piled upon his track. The dead and wounded were brought to this city and cared for.

Steamer Burned on Lake Erie.

DETROIT, December 1.—The steamer Phil Sheridan was burned on Lake Erie yesterday. She was insured for $80,000 against fire.

The Phil Sheridan took fire when a short distance from Buffalo, at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The efforts of the crew to suppress the fire being unvailing, they took to boats and were picked up and brought here by the steamer Craig. The Sheridan was valued at $30,000, and insured for $80,000 against fire.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1875.

Hon. D. P. Dyer, United States District Attorney, St. Louis:

I am absolutely innocent, and every telegram which I sent will appear perfectly innocent the moment I can be heard. I demand a hearing before the court where I can testify.

[Signed] A. E. BABCOCK.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1, 1875.

BABCOCK MUST WAIT FOR HIS VINDICATION.

General Babcock this morning received a telegram from District Attorney Dyer, at St. Louis, in answer to one sent by him yesterday, demanding a hearing before the court, stating that the evidence in the Avery case had been closed, and that the next case involving the question of conspiracy was set for the 15th of December.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES—MONEY ORDER DEPARTMENT—OCEAN MAIL SERVICE—LIMITED MAIL—POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS—IMPORTANT CHANGES RECOMMENDED.

The Postmaster General's annual report shows the receipts of the department $27,441,360, and the expenses $33,611,309. The receipts exceed those of 1874 1 13-100 per cent., and the expenditures 4 62-100. The actual amount drawn from the Treasury was $4,716,329, or $54,366 less than the previous two years. The recorded complaints of missing letters numbered 5,645, of which 2,677 were registered letters, containing bonds, drafts, &c., amounting to $76,826, while unregistered letters contained valuable contents amounting to $75,997. Of the former 1,083 were satisfactorily accounted for, 911 actually lost and 683 remain under investigation. Postmasters for violation of the postal laws numbered 307, the greater portion not connected with the postal service. One hundred and seven convictions were had, and 107 awaited trial. The department is in correspondence with the British Department on the subject of increase of United States territorial rates in British closed mails transported by rail between New York and

were comparatively very few crimes of a serious character. The list is made up mainly of petty larcenies, assaults and battories, disorderly conduct, false pretenses, surety of the peace, violation of the liquor law, &c. On the whole summary, only one-fourth were of a serious character. Even of the larceny cases, many were of an aggravated character, and particularly the cases of larceny by bailee. And more than one-fourth of the whole number were settled by the jury and jury ignored the bills. The following table shows the numbers lettered by the grand jury, or disposed without going before the grand jury:

	Dec.	M'ch	June	Sept.	Total
Assault and battery	22	24	37	64	147
Larceny	19	29	25	46	118
Liquor cases	29	19	38	53	139
Other cases	34	34	30	73	191
Total	104	103	130	236	593

To this list ought to be added the 158 cases of surety of the peace. They do not go before the grand jury. Yet nine out of ten of them should never be sent up to court. Some magistrates seem to act on the theory that if they cannot make anything else out of the fracas or quarrel between two parties, they can bind them each over to keep the peace on a charge of surety.

SAMPLE CASES.

The large majority of all these trifling cases are among the poorer classes of society, who can ill afford to spare the time to attend court, and are less able to pay the inevitable costs in the end. They also suffer unnecessarily and severely from the heavy fees exacted of some magistrates in making as many cases as possible out of the same fracas. There will be one information for malicious mischief, another for assault and battery and another for surety of the peace, all based on the oath of the same witness, and all three cases taxed with the same bill of costs. And frequently the parties on both sides are coerced to bring cross-suits so as to get his costs into the pocket of the other. Here are a few mere samples of many others. A man and woman had a wrangle about a clothes line. In the settlement they had each other up. The man sued the woman before an alderman for disorderly conduct, who fined her for assault and costs. She then sued him for assault and battery, and he cross-fired with a suit of assault and battery against her. Each was summary conviction before an alderman, and two suits in court, costing each of the parties some forty dollars. The woman had a dispute about their children, used bad words and shook their broomsticks at each other. The magistrate sent both up for court for assault and battery, each was thrown into costs, and neither had a cent in which to pay them.

This practice of sending trifling cases to court and multiplying informations and indictments has not only been a needless and heavy expensive to the county. Besides paying the costs in all cases wherein the parties cannot, the county has to always pay the costs in larcenies and other felonies, and the expense of keeping the prisoners in jail. Take the following as illustrations: Two men broke open a chest and stole a lot of stone-mason tools, all not worth, perhaps, twenty dollars. But they belonged to different workmen, one owning a chisel, another a hammer, &c. Separate informations were returned to court and eight indictments found by the grand jury. In another case, thirteen informations and indictments were returned against a party for receiving stolen goods, all found by the grand jury at the same time. Some of the larceny cases are cruelly unjust. From the serious nature of the charge and the difficulty of getting bail, great hardships are experienced often by the poor. One man, on a charge of stealing a wooden handle of cooper's tool, worth perhaps, ten cents, lay in jail two months before his trial; what was then assessed?

THE MAGISTRATE A BLESSING OR A CURSE.

I have estimated that *not* more than one-fourth of all the cases sent to court are of a serious character as to justify their being submitted to a grand jury or tried in the Quarter Sessions. They ought to be settled before the magistrate, or by some inferior tribunal, perhaps they could be settled by the magistrate if he would exercise forbearance and give the parties kind and judicious advice. In nine of cases in ten they look to the magistrate for advice. A good magistrate is a great blessing in a community; a bad one is a great curse. Encouraging quarrels, bringing on trifling cases to court, when they can and ought to be settled out of court, is a public evil. It is not his duty to return every case to court where there has been some violation of law. He may settle any case done or contemplated, and the offense is slight, he ought to advise the parties to settle, or dismiss the case. Some magistrates they would take his advice; thus saving the parties themselves from new troubles and the county from great expense.

THE COST TO THE COUNTY.

I have taken the following figures from the statement of the County Controller for the last year, showing, in part, the expense to the county of the criminal prosecutions for the year 1874:

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Paid witness fees, including costs of Aldermen and Justices	13,448 55
Paid Aldermen and Justices of the Peace in discharged larceny cases	1,800 96
Paid on warrant commitments by the Mayor of Pittsburgh	4,482 00
Paid on warrant commitments by the Mayor of Allegheny	452 80
Paid on warrant commitments by sundry Aldermen and Justices	51 31
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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1875.

THE exports from Philadelphia last week amounted in value to $670,951.

THE Colorado Constitutional Convention which meets December 20, will consist of twenty-four Republicans and fifteen Democrats.

MICHIGAN has been a Republican State since 1856, and it is a remarkably prosperous and cheaply governed State. The State debt is only $1,445,150, and the total revenue levied annually for State purposes reaches only $2,208,929. The most of this is collected from corporations.

IT is stated that there will not be a single dollar in the Tennessee Treasury at the end of the year. The tax collectors will have to sell property for unpaid taxes, and the State will be compelled to buy it in. A "glorious Democratic tidal wave" swept over that State a few years ago, if we recollect rightly.

THE Bellefonte *Industrial Advocate*, published by W. W. BROWN and D. S. DUNHAM, and purporting to be the organ of the order of "Sons of '76," has suspended. Everybody knew that the concern was established and maintained during the campaign purposely to aid the Democratic party, and when the supplies from that source failed, the paper went down.

TIMES are not so bad in New England as they have been depicted. The Massachusetts savings banks are coming through the year with a considerably larger increase of deposits than was expected. The export of cotton goods to England and other new foreign markets, also, is going prosperously forward, and may possibly become a permanent thing.

HON. WILLIAM H. WITTE, late proprietor of the Philadelphia *Commonwealth*, died at his residence in Montgomery county, last Friday, of dropsy. He was elected to Congress on the Democratic ticket in 1862, and made a report upon the Smithsonian Institute which attracted considerable attention throughout the country. He was also a candidate for Congress in 1872, but was defeated by HON. JAMES S. BIEBY, Republican.

THE foreign commerce of New York last week was: General merchandise imports, $2,983,749; produce exports, $5,519,647, and specie exports, $706,564. The total imports of merchandise since the first of January were $242,225,527, against $359,628,792 for the corresponding period last year. The total exports of produce during the year have been $227,663,764, against $280,149,145 in 1874, and the total exports of specie during the same time were $66,801,685, against $49,611,046 for the relating period of 1874.

THE *Methodist*, which speaks for a very large class of thoughtful men in this country, serves timely notice upon the Democrats in Congress that mere attempts to expose wrong-doing on the part of Republicans in office will not commend the Democracy to public favor. Perfection in the administration of our national affairs is not looked for from either party; and the party which is able and willing to detect and punish the wrong-doers is much more likely to challenge public favor than the party which has no capital beyond that of the misfortunes or errors of its opponents.

NEW HAMPSHIRE opens the Presidential campaign next year, and the election that is to occur in March will not only decide what party is to rule the State, but will also declare what will be her position the following November. "Carry New Hampshire, or it is all over with us," a Democratic leader, according to the New York *Times*, a few days ago wrote to a fellow Democrat in the State of Connecticut. This should be sufficient to arouse the Republicans of that State to the paramount importance of going into the struggle in dead earnest. The chances of victory are decidedly in their favor, and if they fail it will be simply for lack of proper energy.

ACCORDING to a Mississippi correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, a movement is already on foot among the Democrats of that State for calling a convention to revise the Constitution, and for impeaching the present State officers. One of their leading organs—the Newton *Democrat*—intimates plainly that if a new Constitution is formed, they want no such "nauseating" clause in it like that contained in the new Alabama Constitution, which provides that the State may not secede from the Union. The late White League victory there was evidently not won for nothing. The game begins to crop out.

EX-SPEAKER BLAINE undoubtedly reads aright the signs of the times with regard to the common school question. In a private letter written to a friend in Ohio soon after the election in that State, and which has just been published, he proposes to add the following to the inhibitory clause in section 10, article I, of the Federal Constitution:

"No State shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; and no money raised by taxation in any State for the support of public schools, or derived from any public fund therefor, shall ever be under the control of any religious sect, nor shall any money so raised or any fund be divided between religious sects or denominations."

THE Germantown (Philadelphia) *Telegraph* avers that a project is being considered by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to build a grand depot in the heart of the city, perhaps at Sixteenth and Market streets, where the company own a square of ground, to which more probably can be added. It appears to have been under consideration for some time; also tunnel, to construct their own bridge over the Schuylkill. The destruction of the Market street bridge has brought the matter prominently forward. To reach the depot, the line will probably be a tunnel, as in London, where the principal stations are in the heart of the city, and in reaching which by tunnel no other interests are interfered with or obstructed.

THE Brooklyn *Argus* says the lesson of the life of the late WILLIAM B. ASTOR was "that of industry." So it was; beyond that, nothing. It was his constant delight to see his pile grow, and it increased, in his own mind, until it reached $100,000,000. Seven hundred tenants paid him tribute. Had it been 7,000 he would, probably, have been still unsatisfied. He loved money with the greed perfected by a lifetime. The ASTOR library is almost the sole benefaction of his house. He was a successful guardian of a vast estate, but he made no mark in any other capacity, and is hardly more missed to-day than would be the porter of his lodge were he to die to-morrow. His long life was spent in hard work for the purpose of expanding his property to the most enormous proportions it was capable of attaining. That was his sole ambition. Was it worth the striving for?

MANY newspaper writers, in drawing a moral from the life of WILLIAM B. ASTOR, commend his industrious example as one which all young men should imitate and follow; but there are some wise heads which are not charmed by that illustration. The *North American*, for instance, says:

> The industry of the late William B. Astor in diligently attending every day to his pecuniary affairs, and in walking down in the morning until four or five o'clock in the afternoon is held up as a shining example to young men. But to what end? Is there not something better for a human being to do in this world than to labor so many hours every day to increase an accumulation of wealth already too great to be of any use to its owner? Mr. Astor was a highly educated man, and had projected great schemes of learned research, but relinquished them to become his own business manager, and at his death left a fortune of one hundred millions, mostly real estate. Now we really do not think that any considerable number of sensible men will see any valuable lesson in such an example. There could be no greater calamity to such a country as ours than to cultivate a race of such monopolists as Astor.

THE length of the street railroad system in Philadelphia, including the roads in course of construction, is about three hundred miles. A new line, confined exclusively to West Philadelphia, is nine miles long. The Germantown *Telegraph* says:

> All the old lines are obliged to extend their tracks as the suburbs increase in buildings and population, and with the whole country laid out on the map officially in streets ready for operation and built on at any time and buildings going up at the rate of five or six thousand houses a year, there is at present no appreciable limit to the system of horse railways. For many years the whole travel of the vast city of London was accommodated by omnibusses, at a time when that great metropolis had four hundred thousand houses. Hence it is quite possible for the horse railways to supply all the wants of local travel in Philadelphia for many years to come, and for the system to acquire a greater development than anyone has yet dreamed of.
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> At present we have about nine hundred miles of streetway. Ultimately we shall have three or four thousand miles, and of this aggregate at least one-third will be available for street railways, say about a thousand miles.

DRIVING OUT THE "INDISPENSABLES."

Secretary CHANDLER has done what the Secretaries of Mr. LINCOLN should have done in 1861, and failed to do both then and since—he has turned out the old retainers of his Department, who have been kept in place by the various Secretaries who have preceded him on the plea that they were indispensable to the prosecution of the public business.

These "indispensable" fellows, whenever a new Secretary comes in, invariably find leading men to go to the new office and represent that it would be impossible to carry on such-and-such a bureau without the aid of SMITH or JONES, who has been in the Department for twenty years, you know, and has all the routine of business at his fingers' ends. The Secretary, anxious to have the affairs of his office move on smoothly, hesitates to remove one who is so useful, and the "indispensable" clerk is thus handed down from one Secretary to another, secure in his place because his experience has rendered him so thoroughly serviceable.

Now, it is through the agency of these old "indispensable" clerks that "rings" are formed in the various bureaus, and combinations made up which enable corrupt men outside of the departments to prey upon the Government and defraud it in contracts and in whatever it undertakes. They know all that is going on, and they have been there long enough to acquire a complete knowledge of how to speculate upon the Government. It is through the agency of such men that fraudulent contracts are obtained, and fraudulent claims passed; and they are much more "indispensable" to the outside thieves than they are to the Secretaries of the departments. Their anxiety to hold on to their places is not on account of the miserable pittance of the salaries they receive, but grows out of the opportunities for speculation which their places and their knowledge give them.

Mr. CHANDLER has found all this out, and he has bundled the indispensables out, neck and crop, regardless of lamentations there and elsewhere. He has thus assured, at times even that the Department cannot get along without them; but he is so certain that it cannot get along honestly *with* them, that he is fain to try the experiment of carrying on the Government with men who know enough, and yet are not guilty of knowing too much.

We are glad this tall, and stern, and irreverent Michigander has laid a heavy hand on the fellows who have been deluding themselves with the idea that they are essential to the continued existence of the Government. Like CROMWELL with CHARLES I, he has discovered that they have a joint in their official necks which permits the passage of the decapitating ax, and the discovery is an exceedingly valuable one. It will demonstrate that there has *not* been a collapse in the supply of competent as well as honest men, and that an infusion of fresh and pure blood into the veins of the Interior Department is good for its health, and essential to its vitality.

And this discovery of CHANDLER'S may very well be extended to the other departments. There will be less fear of straw bids in the Postoffice Department when the "indispensables" are crowded out of its chief places; and there will be much less danger of the successful prosecution of such frauds as the WITOWSKI and SUGG FORT claims through the Third Auditor's and Second Controller's Bureaus of the Treasury Department, when the old rats who have burrowed there and made themselves snug are routed out and made to give place to men who are not so familiar with the ways that are dark and tricks that are *not* in vain. Let the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General try it once. An application of the CHANDLER broom to their departments will wonderfully brighten them and improve their atmosphere.

THE New York papers note the fact that the repeal of the duty on tea and coffee did not have the effect of reducing the price of those articles. This is particularly observable of coffee. There has been no reduction in the price, notwithstanding the remission of the duty. As soon as the coffee growers of Brazil learned of the action of our Congress repealing the duty, they at once advanced the price to a point which amounted to a pocketing of the duty themselves, instead of allowing any benefit either to shipper or foreign consumer. The New York *Mail*, commenting on this fact, says:

> "Apart from all questions of tariff, it does indeed seem odd that the remission of duty in one of the staples of our commerce in out of domestic life, should be so turned against us as to secure no advantage to our own people, while actually tending to enrich those whom we certainly had no special anxiety to benefit."

To free traders, and those who have not studied the tariff question, it must seem odd; but those who have studied the tariff question in all its aspects are not surprised by it in the least. The free trade theory is that the duties levied on imported articles are added to the original price, and that a repeal of the duty must therefore work a corresponding reduction in the price. This protective theory is the direct opposition of a duty tends to reduce the original price, and that the repeal of the duty simply enhances that price, and is therefore of no benefit to the consumer. The producer thus, in effect, pays the duty, and he alone profits by the repeal. This is a general rule, subject, of course, to many special modifications in its application.

The repeal of the coffee duty is a clear instance of the correctness of the protective theory. The imposition of the duty reduced the cost of the article in Brazil; the repeal of it increased the price to the extent of the remitted duty. The coffee producer bore the burden of the duty, while it lasted, and he reaps all the benefits of the repeal. The consumers in this country have not been benefited by it a particle. The price of coffee is affected by the supply and the demand; but, aside from that, we are paying the same price for coffee, duty free, as was paid for it when the duty was on. If the duties on iron and steel were taken off, the foreign manufacturers would be able to increase their prices, and would be guided, in that event, only by the amount of competition they would have to meet from them. The less the competition, the higher the price would go.

THE Toledo *Blade* asks:

> "Is not Senator Ferry, by virtue of his position as President *pro tempore*, Vice President for the unexpired term of the late Vice President? The Senate will undoubtedly be called upon to elect a President *pro tempore*, but not a Vice President, since Mr. Ferry will occupy that position."

The *Blade* is mistaken. Mr. FERRY does not succeed to the office of Vice President. No provision is made in the Constitution for a successor to the Vice President. When he dies the office becomes vacant, The Senate, when the Vice President is absent, chooses a President *pro tem.*, but he is not a permanent officer, and an election for such presiding officer takes place on the recurrence of every absence of the Vice President. Senator FERRY'S term expires when the Senate meets in December, and a new election for President *pro tem.* will then be had.

The sixth paragraph of section 1 of article II. of the Constitution of the United States provides as follows:

> "6. In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President; and Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected."

In accordance with this provision Congress enacted in 1792 that in case of the death or disability of both the President and Vice President, the President *pro tem.* of the Senate (and in his absence the Speaker of the House) shall act as President, temporarily, until an election for President can be provided for. He does not become Vice President at all, any more than the Speaker of the House does, who would also, in a possible contingency, become President temporarily, and he becomes President *ex-officio*, only for a limited time, until a President can be chosen. The Vice President, in case of the death of the President, becomes actual President for the unfinished term, but the President *pro tem.* of the Senate does not, and he does not, consequently, become Vice President by virtue of his office. He performs the functions of the Vice President, as a presiding officer of the Senate, but that does not make him Vice President. That office will remain vacant until a new election takes place in 1876.

COMMENTING on the acquittal, last Saturday, of SCANNELL, of New York, for the murder of DONAHUE, upon the ground of the insanity of the prisoner at the time the shooting took place, notwithstanding it was in evidence that the slayer had dogged his victim for two years with the fixed determination to take his life, the *Times* of that city says:

> "It is certainly a very grave reflection upon the jury system, or the way in which it is at present administered, to find twelve men reach, after a brief period of deliberation, the conclusion that Scannell was not accountable for his actions at the time of Donahue's murder."

There is evidently a growing disbelief in the efficacy of the present jury system, in many portions of the country, and perhaps it might be well to have the Government, in its endless search for statistics, include in its quest particular reports as to trials by jury—ascertain in each county of each State the annual number of trials, the number of verdicts rendered, and the number of disagreements; also the number of cases in which a disagreement was followed by a second or third trial. These reports could be compared, so far as possible, with times past, and be held for exact comparison with times to come; the resulting information might, if it did not suggest a remedy, make it necessary to find one. If this method is not feasible there still remains the plan of building a great national institution for the roaring and training of jurors!

THE annual report of the Chief Signal Officer of the United States shows that the question of the useful pre-announcement of approaching meteoric changes may be considered as determined by now five years of successful service. With each year of labor the paths for improvement open more plainly. What was conjecture becomes certainty. The co operation of scientists is assured, both at home and abroad. A record of daily observations, covering the territorial extent of Algiers, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, Denmark, Dutch Guiana, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and British North America, is exchanged semi-monthly. The collated results of these reports are of great importance, combining, as they do, for the first time on record, the labors of the nations in a work of this kind for their mutual benefit. There is needed only the assistance to be rendered by the naval forces of the different powers, which it is expected will shortly be obtained, to extend the plan of report upon the seas, to bring within the scope of study, observations practically extending around the whole Northern hemisphere.

THE proper treatment of tramps still vexes the public mind. The Ohio law, passed last winter, is a good one as far as it goes, in presenting a method for dealing with this troublesome class. We subjoin its provisions:

> 1. That if any male person physically able to perform manual labor, and to whom labor at reasonable prices has been offered and refused, or who has not made reasonable effort to procure employment, shall be found in a state of vagrancy or practicing common begging, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in any sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and sentenced to hard labor in the jail of the county, for which labor he shall receive credit at the rate of seventy-five cents per day, in addition to all costs of prosecution and accruing costs shall be paid.
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> 2. The Commissioners of the several counties are hereby authorized to provide for carrying the provisions of the foregoing section into effect, for which purpose they may, by order entered upon their journals, declare that the jail shall extend in and include the lands of the proper county, and every kind and form of labor commonly performed therein by male persons.

The last clause, extending the jurisdiction of the county jail over the lands of the county, is a simple and effective way of surmounting a difficulty heretofore met with.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR

The Virginia Legislature assembles tomorrow.

Fashionable flightiness. They are restoring the ancient sport of falconry in England.

Putting their money into a sinking fund. The Japs are having three iron-clads built in England.

The next sensation apprehended in San Francisco is a gigantic fraud in the overissue of stock certificates.

"The Marquis of Lorne's poem appeared in America three weeks before it did in England." What poem?

England bought that canal because she thought it would be Suez-cidal to let any other power obtain control of it.

The paper trade is complaining of serious depression, owing to the falling off in the demand for books and periodicals.

This is a good time in which to study economy, to give up useless indulgences, and to set up in each house a tin "Noah's ark."

Amid the general reduction of wages in these times, there is one thing whose wages is not in the least reduced, and that is sin.

"Hoist with his own petard." The latest Paris sensation is an acrobat who allows himself to be shot from a mortar to his trapeze.

One of the indicted Indiana crooked whiskyites has gone crazy. "Some mourn more the shame which sin brings than the sin which brings the shame."

A monkey-shine. A grand banquet was recently given in Berlin in honor of a monkey which had completed twenty-five years' service in a circus there.

The Supreme Court of Indiana decides that the stockholders in private manufacturing corporations are not individually liable for the debts of the corporation.

The coming Christmas and New Year give promise of being celebrated, in the way of gifts, in a more economical style than has been customary for some years.

If Fifth avenue and Wood streets are to be repaved with wood, some good material for laying a few blocks might be selected from the Street Commission Department.

A correspondent asks our opinion as to which is the greatest of all crimes. We cannot undertake to say, but murder would seem to be one of the safest of them.

A young fellow who recently eloped with the wife of a prominent New Yorker has compromised with the latter for a specified sum, he having less regard for principle than for interest.

An accidental discovery of great importance, if verified, is announced by a French veterinarian, to the effect that a revaccination of animals is a sure preventive of the foot and mouth disease.

A Democratic exchange out West says a man's brains are of no account until he gets a chunk of lead in 'em. Then that editor ought to hire somebody to shoot him in the head without delay.

The COMMERCIAL will continue to be represented during the winter by one of the oldest and most intelligent correspondents at the national capital, whose letters and dispatches may always be safely relied on.

A question originally submitted to the courts thirteen years ago is now on trial for the third time in the United States District Court at Boston. Wasn't it Hamlet that said something about the "law's delay?"

Says the *Courier-Journal:* "Spain has advertised for a national air, as she has never had one. We might sell her 'John Brown's body' and get rid of the nuisance." It isn't his body that troubles you. 'Tis his soul.

Apropos of Tupper's new "drama" of Washington, when Thackeray was once asked by an American what the English people thought of Mr. Tupper, the great satirist replied: "Sir, the English people do not think of Mr. Tupper."

Anthracite Mines Caving In.

[From the Scranton Republican, November 27.]

A serious cave commenced several days ago and is still in progress at the Grand Tunnel mines of the Susquehanna Coal Company, the Union mines of Albrighton, Roberts & Co., and is extending to the Avondale mines of the D. L. & W. Co., where a crack at the surface varying from four to seven inches in width is noticeable. The Union mines we are told have so caved in that it will be impossible to again work them, and one of the openings at the Grand Tunnel, connected can be made with the slope so that work can after a time be renewed, but at the Union there are no means left for pumping so as to keep the mines from flooding, and this will add to the seriousness of the disaster here and jeopardize to a still greater extent the Grand Tunnel and the Avondale. A large number of men and boys are thrown out of employment, which may occasion considerable distress. The cause of the cave is said to be the robbing the mines of pillars, which was carried to a considerable extent in the Union mines.

THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC.

PRESIDENT SCOTT'S STATEMENT.

Text of the Letter Addressed to the Convention at St. Louis---The Advantages to Accrue to the Country at Large and to the Government from the Construction of the New Railway Through the States and Territories of the Southwest.

In the National Railroad Convention at St. Louis the following lengthy letter from Thomas A. Scott, setting forth the advantages to the country at large and to the Government from the construction of the Texas and Pacific Railroad, was read:

PHILADELPHIA, PA., November 23, 1875.

To the Hon. Stanley Matthews, President of the National Convention to consider the subject of the construction of a Railroad Through the States and Territories of the Southwest:

MY DEAR SIR: It gives me pleasure, in accordance with the invitation extended, to present, as briefly as the subject will admit, a few facts in regard to the Texas and Pacific Railway, in connection with the construction of a through line between the States and Territories of the South and Southwest and the Pacific ocean. It is only necessary, I think, to state briefly the national character of this enterprise and the urgency there is for it to enlist the cordial and earnest interest of this convention and the country at large in its completion.

The present line to the Pacific, it is well known, follows generally the route of the forty-second parallel of north latitude as far as Great Salt Lake, and the entire country is now dependent upon that road for all communications to and from the Pacific coast. The mere presentation of this fact is sufficient in itself to show the necessity for the construction of another line. A territory over seven hundred miles wide, stretching along the entire South Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico, and containing twelve millions of people, is without any direct communication with the waters of the Pacific—and its inhabitants are compelled to make a long and expensive detour to reach the eastern terminus of the present line. To meet this want three other companies have been organized, at different times, to construct through lines across the continent. The one in which St. Louis was especially interested, and which seemed at one time to have secured the aid necessary for its prompt construction, was the thirty-fifth parallel—or the Atlantic and Pacific road; and we all remember the strong feeling manifested in favor of that enterprise by the people of St. Louis, and the determination evinced a few years since to build the line at once.

The same difficulty existed then as now, viz.: the impracticability of constructing roads, at any reasonable price, to an amount necessary to furnish the funds for constructing so long a road; and after maturely considering the subject, and discussing it very thoroughly and carefully, the friends of that enterprise believed that their interests would be best subserved by the passage of the Texas